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21 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Surprises

1. It would be useful if you canvas your Division Chiefs and those within the Divisions running covert actions to see if there is any activity being undertaken which has not been briefed to Congress. I can't think of any obviously, but it is conceivable that an initial program, as briefed to Congress, has been modified or changed somewhat and that Congress has not been advised of that adjustment.

2. The desire here is that we not get caught in any surprises and that we indeed keep Congress fully and currently informed.

3. The thrust of all of this is to make sure that our personnel in the conduct of covert action live within the spirit as well as the words of the law and satisfy the Director's and my intent to keep Congress fully advised. Bear in mind that activities undertaken in the past may have taken on an air of significance due to adjustments in the world situation. Hence, if that is so, we should brief Congress if they have not been alerted.

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John N. McMahon

cc: DCI
ExDir
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